



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

each subject is an integral and correlated part. To the training in legal thinking and solution of specific problems is sacrificed a comprehension of the law as a whole. This evil has been recognized and brought before the profession in the report of Dr. Redlich on the Case Method. It is highly probable that the law schools will recognize the evil and remedy it in the future. But for those who have been under the case system alone, the remedy rests with themselves. The study of Blackstone furnishes an admirable basis from which to survey the whole field of the law. The value of its study has been long recognized. Professor Dicey has recently said: "To any student of English law, I unhesitatingly give this advice: Begin your study by reading Blackstone's Commentaries." To him who has completed his course in the law school, the same advice might well be given, for he is yet but at the beginning of his life-long study of the law.

The present edition is based upon that of Professor Hammond, using the same text and embodying to a large extent his valuable notes. There have been added numerous notes by the present editor, as well as notes in the form of extracts from the writings of acknowledged authorities on the history and theory, as well as the practice, of the law. These are intended to show the important modern modifications of or innovations on the common law. Students of the law would do well to read this edition of what the late Professor Maitland called "a great readable, reasonable book about the English law as a whole."

W. W. G.

*The Commodities' Clause.* By Thomas L. Kibler. Published by John Byrne & Company, Washington. 1916. pp. 178.

The purpose of this book is to treat in detail of the conditions in the coal regions due to the entering upon mining operations of the railroads of the country, the application of the Commodities' Clause thereto and the fundamental weakness of the clause. In order that the situation may be compared with that in Europe, a chapter is devoted to the exposition of conditions there. There follows a chapter on the conditions existing in the United States. The rest of the book is given over to a discussion of the Commodities' Clause, its history, operation and weakness. The conclusion of the author that "the present law as construed is deficient in that it permits a railway to own and operate min-

ing, manufacturing, or producing concerns, and transport the products thereof, provided only that such products be sold prior to presentation for shipment; and to maintain relations with mining, manufacturing, or producing concerns, through stock ownership, or interchange of directors or officials, or otherwise, which enable such railway to carry on operations in virtual violation of the law" comes as a surprise to many of us and presents a problem, which, if existent, as appears by the author's consideration of the matter, must be remedied by adequate legislation. The author presents an amendment which merits attention as a proper solution of the problem.

W. W. G.

*American Government and Majority Rule.* By Edward Elliott, Ph.D. Princeton University Press. 1916, pp. viii, 175.

In this attractive little volume we find a thoughtful and interesting discussion of the democratic theory of government and its practical working as exemplified in the United States. Doctor Elliott, who has been Professor of Politics at Princeton, has had the skill to present ideas which, as they seem unhackneyed but yet carefully developed, form a real contribution to a subject that has called forth many works of varying usefulness.

The subject is quite properly treated from the historical point of view. We see first the original somewhat inconsistent attitude of our forefathers, who, believing in the sovereignty of the people and yet distrusting government as an engine of tyranny, established a complicated system of checks and balances for the protection of the minority and demanded that each constitution should contain a Bill of Rights; and we see how the democratic theory is developed, until now the government is considered the agent, not the master, of the people and many new devices are originated to assist in attaining the end that the majority shall rule. Doctor Elliott's own conclusion is that a democratic government to be effective must be simple, and of the new devices he favors the commission form of government and the short ballot, while he feels that the initiative and the referendum are a step away from simplicity in governmental agencies. In elaborating upon this theme that the form of government should be made as simple as possible, he makes illuminating suggestions as to the reformation of our state governments: namely, that the administrative officials of the state should not be elected but